

**Draft Summary of the Environmental Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
May 19, 2004**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Environmental Work Group (EWG) on May 19, 2004 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Narrative Report: EWG 50 (revised)
Attachment 4	Plenary Group Matrix Summary and Flow Chart Handout
Attachment 5	Final Report SP-F5/7 Task 1 Evaluation of Potential Effects of Fisheries Management Activities on ESA-Listed Fish Species
Attachment 6	Presentation on SP-F5/7 Task 1
Attachment 7	Final Report SP-F3.1, Task 1A: Assessment of Potential Fish Passage Impediments Above Lake Oroville's High Water Mark
Attachment 8	Presentation on SP-F3.1, Task 1A
Attachment 9	Final Report SP-F3.1, Tasks 3B and 3C: Project Operations Influencing Fish Habitat and Water Quality in the Thermalito Diversion Pool and the Thermalito Forebay
Attachment 10	Presentation on SP-F3.1, Tasks 3B and 3C
Attachment 11	Interim Report SP-F21, Task 3: Project Effects on Predation of Feather River Juvenile Anadromous Salmonids

I. Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the EWG meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The desired outcomes of the meeting were discussed as listed on the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

II. Action Items – April 28, 2004 EWG Meeting

Ted Alvarez noted that a summary of the April 28, 2004 EWG meeting has not yet been posted on the relicensing web site but will be soon. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from the April EWG meeting as follows:

Action Item #E129:	Meet with O&M staff to generate 'limiting factors' calendar for consideration in scheduling routine maintenance, inspections, and other activities that alter operations.
Status:	Eric See (DWR) reported that fisheries biologists and O&M staff are in contact and try to coordinate activities to minimize effects to fishery resources. Carson Cox (DFG) requested a more formalized procedure be described and included in the terms and conditions of the new license. Eric suggested and Carson agreed to attend the next coordination meeting if possible to better articulate what additional coordination would be useful.

Action Item #E130:	Expand description of opportunities to create spawning habitat in Oroville Wildlife Area.
Status:	Brad Cavallo (DWR) reported that the description had been expanded and the revised narrative report will be distributed.
Action Item #E131:	Revise EWG50 and bring back to the EWG.
Status:	Eric See reported that EWG 50 narrative report had been revised to include more specificity regarding stocking and monitoring program success criteria. The revised EWG 50 was distributed and is provided as Attachment 3.
Action Item #E132:	Consider re-formatting tracking tool to eliminate some columns and include summary information such as description, findings, and recommendations.
Status:	Ted Alvarez reminded the EWG that the purpose of this action is to provide a summary of the matrix information for the settlement negotiation group. He described a summary that was distributed to the Plenary Group and suggested that this might meet the settlement negotiation group's needs. After further discussion this action item was deferred until the next meeting. The summary and flow chart is provided as Attachment 4.

III. Modeling Update

Art Hinojosa (DWR) described the Modeling Work Shop #5, held on April 30, 2004. The meeting covered benchmark results, Thermalito complex water temperature data review, and the development process and status of the modeling for Scenario 23. He reported that the future benchmark is now complete and Scenario 23 modeling is in progress. The EWG requested a meeting where the modelers can present the results of Scenario 23 to the EWG. Ted Alvarez will work with Curtis Creel to arrange a meeting.

IV. Resource Action Discussion

Task Force Summaries and Next Meetings

Dave Olson (SWRI) described discussions at the April 29th EWG Fish Passage Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed changes to assumptions and comments received on the model. The next EWG Fish Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 8th at SWRI in Sacramento from 9:30am to 3:00 pm.

Brad Cavallo (DWR) reported that he is waiting for F9 study reports and is preparing to schedule the next Hatchery Task Force meeting in June and he asked the EWG for agenda items. He suggested the Task Force would review the cohort analysis.

Resource Action Narrative Reports

Ted Alvarez reported that no new narrative reports are available for review.

Updated Tracking Matrix and Flow Chart

Mike Manwaring noted that no substantial changes were made to the Tracking Matrix and Flow Chart so revised copies were not provided at this meeting.

Plenary Presentation De-Brief

Ted Alvarez explained the presentation he made to the Plenary Group, updating them on the status of resource action development. He provided the Plenary Group with a summary and matrix already described (Attachment 4).

V. Study Deliverables and Implementation Updates

Reports

SP-F5/7, Task 1

Dave Olson (SWRI) provided copies of the Final Report SP-F5/7 Task 1 Evaluation of Potential Effects of Fisheries Management Activities on ESA-Listed Fish Species (Attachment 5) and provided a presentation (Attachment 6). He explained the various opportunities for stocked fish to escape into the Feather River and the EWG discussed the relative likelihood of each route. Eric Theiss suggested that it is possible for a fish to escape from the Diversion Pool into the Fish Hatchery via the aeration tower and then down the fish ladder into the lower river. He suggested this be mentioned in the report but after discussion, the EWG agreed that the likelihood was very slight if at all possible and the report would not be revised. The EWG discussed transmission of diseases and genetic introgression. Eric See mentioned that the use of Coho salmon in their stocking program was to minimize the potential for disease outbreaks at the hatchery and that a risk analysis would be prepared to address hybridization.

SP-F3.1, Task 1A

Dave Olson provided copies of the Final Report SP-F3.1, Task 1A: Assessment of Potential Fish Passage Impediments Above Lake Oroville's High Water Mark (Attachment 7) and provided a presentation on SP-F3.1, Task 1A (Attachment 8). He described the purpose of this task to identify and characterize potential fish passage barriers upstream of Lake Oroville. He described the major and minor tributaries that were surveyed and described the features determined to be barriers under various flow conditions.

SP-F3.1, Tasks 3B and 3C

Dave Olson provided copies of the Final Report SP-F3.1, Tasks 3B and 3C: Project Operations Influencing Fish Habitat and Water Quality in the Thermalito Diversion Pool and the Thermalito Forebay (Attachment 9) and provided a presentation on SP-F3.1, Task 1A (Attachment 10). He described the fish habitat in the Thermalito Diversion Pool and the Forebay and how project operations influence the fish habitat in those water bodies. Pumpback operations were evaluated to determine influence on temperature gradients however limited pumpback occurred within the study period and no trends were discernable.

SP-F21 Task 3

Dave Olson provided copies of Interim Report SP-F21, Task 3: Project Effects on Predation of Feather River Juvenile Anadromous Salmonids (Attachment 11). Eric Theiss asked why this report was so delayed. Dave responded that the revised schedule was determined by prioritizing additional fast track activities requested by the EWG and various task forces. He explained that this literature review was placed on the back burner while other unanticipated efforts were completed.

VII. Next Steps

The participants agreed that the next EWG meeting would be:

Date: June 23, 2004
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Oroville Field Division

Action Item

The following action item identified by the EWG includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and due date.

Action Item #E133:	Arrange meeting to review results of Scenario 23 with the EWG.
Responsible:	DWR
Due Date:	June 23, 2004